

Peer Review of Scientific Information

Proposed rule to List 49 Species on the Hawaiian Islands as Endangered

About the Document

Title: Proposed Endangered Status for 49 Species from the Hawaiian Islands; Proposed Rule

Estimated Dissemination Date of the Proposed Rule: October 2015

Estimated Peer Review Timeframe: Letters to peer reviewers requesting peer review will be distributed within 5 days of publication of the proposed rule. The comment period for the Hawaiian Islands species will be a minimum of 60 days following publication of the proposed rule. The peer review report will be made available within 60 days following the close of the comment period.

Type of review: Influential

About the Peer Review Process

In accordance with the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service's interagency peer review policy, we will initiate peer review of the science relevant to the proposed rule to list 49 Species on the Hawaiian Islands as Endangered.

The Service will solicit comments from at least three independent scientific reviewers who will submit individual comments in written form. Peer reviewers will be selected by the Service. The scientific peer review will run concurrently with public review. We will solicit reviews from experts who are willing to commit to providing an objective review within the needed time frame. Reviewers will be selected by the Service from specialists in the relevant areas of expertise. We will strive to strike a balance between reviewers on one side of the decision with those on the other side and will avoid selecting peer reviewers who are likely to experience personal gain or loss as a result of the Service's decision. Service employees will not be used for this peer review.

The primary disciplines or expertise that are needed for this peer review are in three main areas: (1) Hawaiian plant biology and conservation, habitat restoration, Hawaiian vegetation ecology and management; (2) Hawaiian seabird bird biology and ecology, conservation and habitat restoration; and (3) Hawaiian invertebrate biology and ecology, conservation, and habitat restoration, including yellow-faced bees, damselflies, and anchialine pool shrimp. We anticipate soliciting comments from more than 10 peer reviewers for this review in order to receive a minimum of three peer review responses for each of the three main areas.

The Service will provide each peer reviewer with information necessary to complete the peer review. Because the peer review comment period will run concurrently with the public comment period, we cannot provide them with public comments prior to their review. However, we will

ask the peer reviewers to determine whether the relevant data were considered and whether they were considered appropriately. We will also ask them to evaluate uncertainty and the strength of the data and conclusions. Deadline for receipt of reviews will be clearly stated. Peer review comments will be public documents.

Will the public and/or scientific or professional societies be asked to nominate peer reviewers?: No.

Are waivers or deferrals being invoked? No.

Estimated Start Date of Peer Review: Letters to peer reviewers requesting a peer review will be distributed within 5 days of publication of the proposed rule.

About Public Participation

The public is invited to comment on this plan and on the proposed rule during the public comment period on the proposed rule. We expect the public comment period to be open from October 15, 2015 to December 14, 2015, however these dates are subject to change and are dependent upon publication of the proposed rule.

Contact

Contact Kristi Young, Acting Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96850; by telephone at 808-792-9400; or by facsimile at 808-792-9581, for additional information regarding this peer review plan.
